

Scripture: Ten Commandments (Deut. 5) – Malachi 4
Singing: 394:1-3 – 1:1-2 – 400:1-3 – 123:1 – 278:1 – 53:1, 3, 5

Intro: A special visitor is coming! Matthew 24:30; Rev. 1:7

A. Jesus' return will be different than His first coming to this earth

1st coming: to save the world which deserved to be condemned John 3:17

a. He came to seek sinners and to be condemned for them

b. He is still coming 'in our midst through His Word' to seek us

2nd coming: to save His people and bring them to new earth Rev. 21:1-3

a. What will be *new* about the *new heaven and earth*?

JESUS' PROMISE TO THE GOD-FEARING

A. Who are the God-fearing? B. What is His promise to the God-fearing?

I. WHO ARE THE GOD-FEARING?

A. God-fearing children are those *who love the Lord Jesus, His Father and Spirit*

1. To 'fear God' is to *treat Him like you treat someone very special to you*

a. because you love Him, therefore you want to please Him

b. because you love Him, therefore you want to be near Him

c. because you love Him, therefore you want to respect and defend Him

d. because you love Him, therefore you feel sad about offending Him

e. because you love Him, therefore you want to be like Him

2. Do not think children that *fear or love or esteem God* are *perfect in that*

II. WHAT IS JESUS' PROMISE TO THOSE WHO FEAR THE LORD?

A. If you are a *God-fearing* boy or girl, your future is bright and glorious

B. His promise is that He is coming *to finish what HE has begun in you*

1. He shall complete free us from sin: *ye shall go forth* (vs. 2b)

2. He shall fill us with unbounded joy: *grow up as calves of the stall* (vs. 2c)

Final: Though dark storm clouds are packing up, the Sun of Righteous will come

IF THE LORD IS YOUR SHEPHERD, YOU SHALL NOT WANT (Ps. 23:1)

There's a Friend for little children, above the bright blue sky.
A Friend Who never changes, Whose love will never die.
Our earthly friends may fail us, and change with changing years,
This Friend is always worthy of that dear Name He bears.

There's a rest for little children above the bright blue sky,
Who love the blessed Saviour and to the Father cry.
A rest from every turmoil, from sin and sorrow free,
Where every little pilgrim shall rest eternally.

There is home for little children above the bright blue sky,
Where Jesus reigns in glory, a home of peace and joy.
No home on earth is like it, nor can with it compare,
For everyone is happy or could be happier, there.

There's a crown for little children, above the bright blue sky,
And all who look for Jesus shall wear it by and by.
A crown of brightest glory, which He will then bestow,
On those who found His favor and loved His Name below.

There's a song for little children above the bright blue sky.
A song that will never weary though sung continually.
A song which even angels can never never sing,
They know not Christ as Savior though they worship Him as King.

There's a robe for little children, above the bright blue sky.
And a harp of sweetest music and palms of victory.
All, all above is treasured, and found in Christ alone.
Lord, grant that we a little children may know Thee as our own.

Young People's Hymnal

Some follow-up questions:

1. How does Proverbs define the fear of God? (There are 17 verses in Proverbs referring to the 'fear of the LORD')
2. What examples of God-fearing children do we find in the Bible?
3. Do God-fearing children have a saving faith in Jesus?
4. How common is God's saving work in children?
5. Discuss Thomas Browne's words, "I fear God yet am I not afraid of Him."
6. If possible, share with your child/ren when and how you fear the Lord.